

- (5) An EDP shall be approved when all of the following criteria have been met:
- (a) the EDP is consistent with the regulations found in 106 CMR 207.000 through 207.180 and 106 CMR 203.400;
 - (b) the activities specified in the EDP are consistent with the goal of obtaining a job;
 - (c) the EDP is consistent with the results of the initial assessment or reassessment; **and**
 - (d) the component activities and support services, subject to appropriations, are available; ~~and~~
 - ~~(e) the activity is not beyond the Associate's degree level.~~

The Department shall document the reason(s) for disapproving an EDP.

- (6) Except for the individual who has failed to meet his or her Work Program requirements, the written EDP will be mutually agreed to and signed by the participant and a Department worker. The participant shall be given a copy of the EDP. ~~Training or education beyond the Associate's degree level may not be included in an EDP.~~

An EDP shall not be considered a contract. An EDP is valid for the period stated in the plan, but not for more than 12 months unless subject to 106 CMR 207.110(C).

- (7) An individual unable to agree on the EDP may have the contents of the EDP reviewed by a supervisory Department worker.

207.120: Employment Services Program (ESP) Participation Components

The regulations found in 106 CMR 207.130 through 106 CMR 207.190 describe the component activities available through the Employment Services Program (ESP). Component participation is subject to available program resources and, except for the Post-Employment Services described in 106 CMR 207.185, the individual's approved Employment Development Plan (EDP). Each participant who completes an EDP must fulfill the obligations of the EDP as specified in 106 CMR 207.110. ~~Training and education beyond the Associate's degree level shall not be included in an approved EDP.~~

ESP-funded training, education and Post-Employment Services may only be provided by vendors under contract with the Department and except for the Post-Employment Services described in 106 CMR 207.185 must be in accordance with the participant's approved EDP.

ESP participation may include self-initiated educational, vocational, or training programs, not funded by ESP to the extent that the programs are consistent with the regulations found in 106 CMR 207.000 through 207.190 and the participant's approved EDP. The participant must meet the Department's standards for participation, including, but not limited to, minimum scheduled hours and attendance requirements specified for the relevant component(s), and the participant must complete the self-initiated program in accordance with Department- established time frames, if any, specified for a particular component. In addition, the participant must be making satisfactory progress in the component, as defined by the provider. An ESP participant in a self-initiated program who meets the above requirements shall be eligible for Support Services in accordance with 106 CMR 207.210.

207.130: Job Search/Job Readiness Component

The Job Search/Job Readiness component is a program that supports individuals with their efforts to obtain and maintain employment; however, the individual has the primary responsibility for finding a job.

Participation in the Job Search/Job Readiness component is subject to available funding and the criteria specified below.

(A) Eligible Participants

- (1) The following individuals are eligible to participate in Job Search/Job Readiness:
 - (a) an applicant;
 - (b) a current recipient; and
 - (c) an applicant for or recipient of an extension of time-limited benefits.

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- (c) the participant must attend the scheduled hours per week, unless good cause applies (see 106 CMR 701.380); and
- (d) the participant must be making satisfactory progress as defined by the educational provider; and
- (e) the participant must not have achieved a high school diploma or its equivalent; or
- (f) the participant must have limited proficiency in English; and
- (g) the participant must provide verification of participation at time periods determined by the Department in a manner prescribed by the Department.
- (h) for purposes of the Young Parents Program, the participant must be age 14-through 21-years-old. Once a YPP participant reaches age 22, he or she may no longer participate in YPP. Enrollment is limited to age 14 through 20 years of age.

(D) Post-Secondary Education

Participation in an educational curriculum shall meet the criteria for participation in the Educational Component when:

- (1) the post-secondary education:
 - ~~(a) is not beyond the Associate's degree level, and~~
 - ~~(b) must be able to be completed within three years, and~~
 - ~~(a) e~~ must be equal to or exceeding a half-time program; and
 - ~~(b) d~~ is included in the approved EDP, ~~and~~
- (2) the activities ~~consist of two year program at a community college that~~ may reasonably be expected to lead to employment in the northeast regional labor market. The northeast regional labor market is defined in the Dictionary of Occupational Titles, Occupational Outlook Handbook and Labor Market Surveys; and
- (3) the activities are creditable toward a certificate, ~~or~~ an Associate's degree **or other degree**; and
- ~~(4) the participant does not already have a post secondary degree; and~~
- ~~(4) 5~~ the participant must be making satisfactory progress as defined by the educational provider; and
- ~~(5) 6~~ the participant must attend the scheduled hours per week, unless good cause applies (see 106 CMR 701.380); and
- ~~(6) 7~~ the participant must provide verification of participation at time periods determined by the Department and in a manner prescribed by the Department; and

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- (7 &) the participant is eligible for funding for the post-secondary program from federal or state educational loans or grants or other loans to the participant.

No funds from the ESP program shall be provided for the cost of tuition, or for other school-related expenses, excluding child-care and transportation costs as specified in 106 CMR 207.210.

~~Education beyond an Associate's degree level shall not meet the criteria for participation in the Educational component.~~

207.150: Skills Training Component

The Skills Training component provides individualized vocational training needed by a participant to prepare him or her to obtain and maintain employment. Participation is subject to available program resources, the individual's approved employment development plan and the criteria specified below.

(A) Activities may include, but are not limited to:

- (1) classroom sessions;
- (2) internships;
- (3) workshops; or
- (4) vocational counseling.

(B) Participation Criteria

The following are the criteria for participation in the Skills Training Component:

- (1) the participant shall be an active recipient; and
- (2) except as specified in 106 CMR 207.115(B), the participant's program must schedule at least 12 hours of activity per week; and
- (3) the participant must attend the scheduled hours per week, unless good cause applies (see 106 CMR 701.380).~~and~~

~~(4) the program may include non-ESP funded post-secondary vocational training provided it is not beyond the Associate's degree level (see 106 CMR 207.120 and 207.140).~~